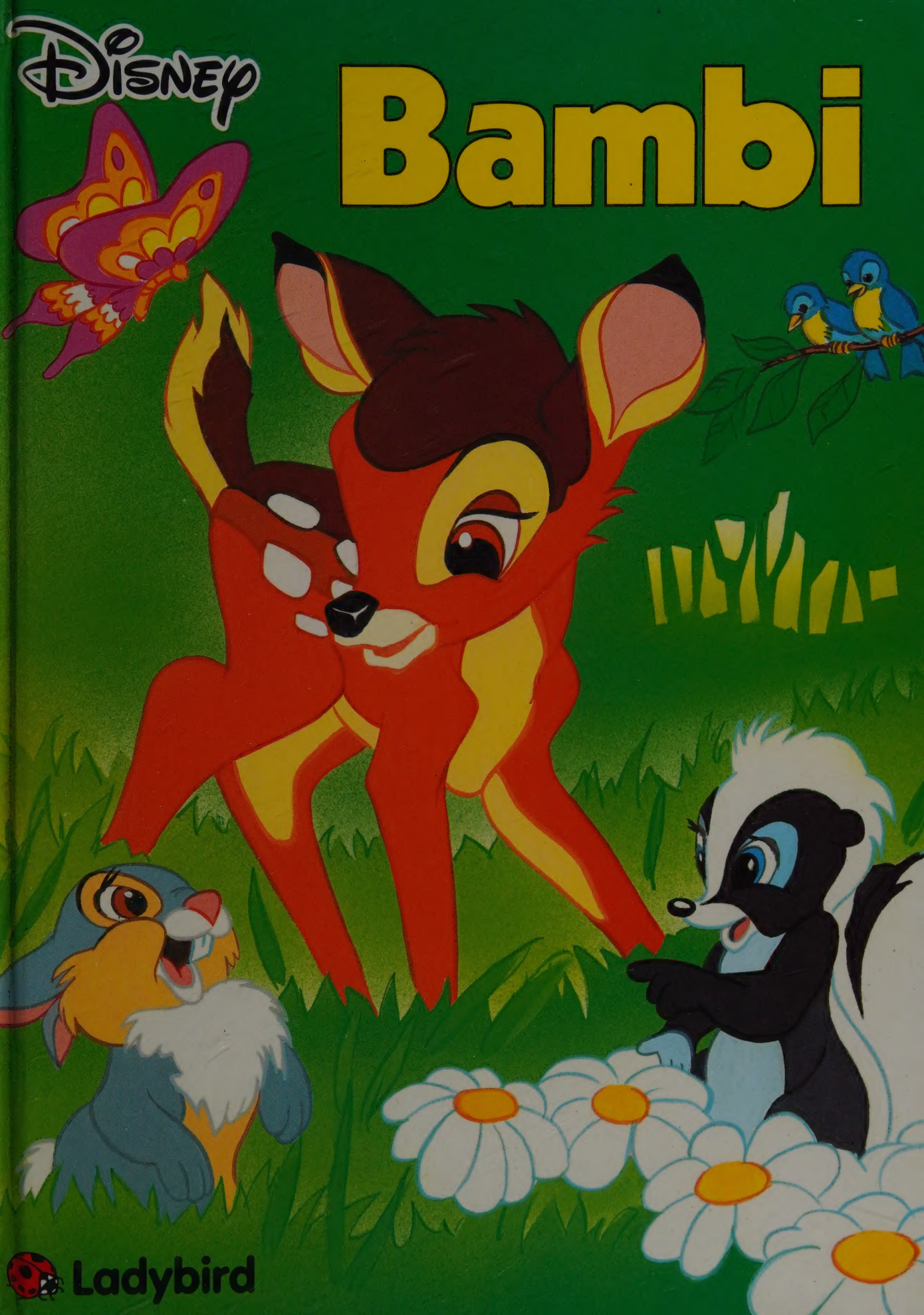
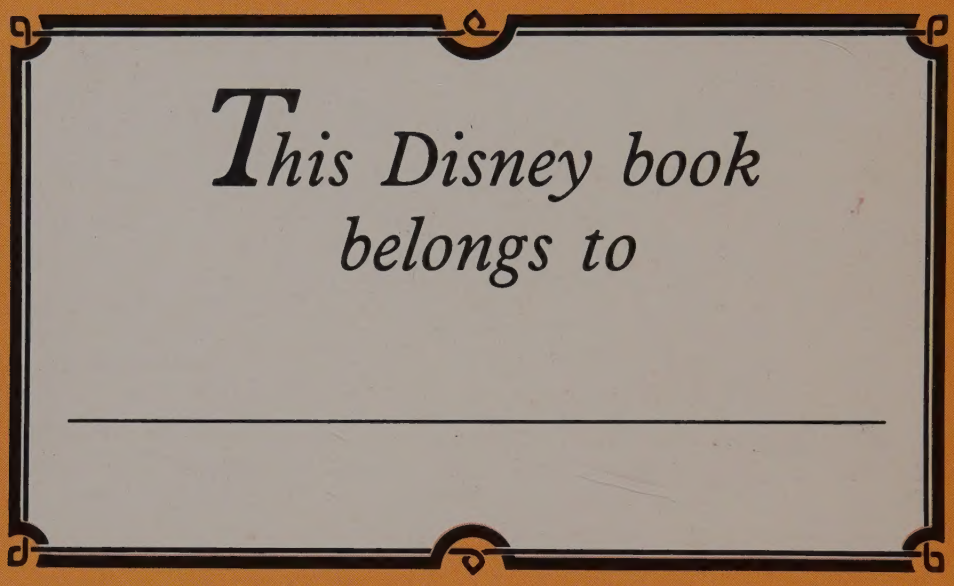

Disney
Bambi
Ladybird


This Disney book
belongs to

First edition

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Disney

Bambi

Ladybird Books

One summer morning, just as the sun was rising, there was great excitement in the forest. A new prince had been born. It was a little fawn, son of the great stag, the Prince of the Forest.

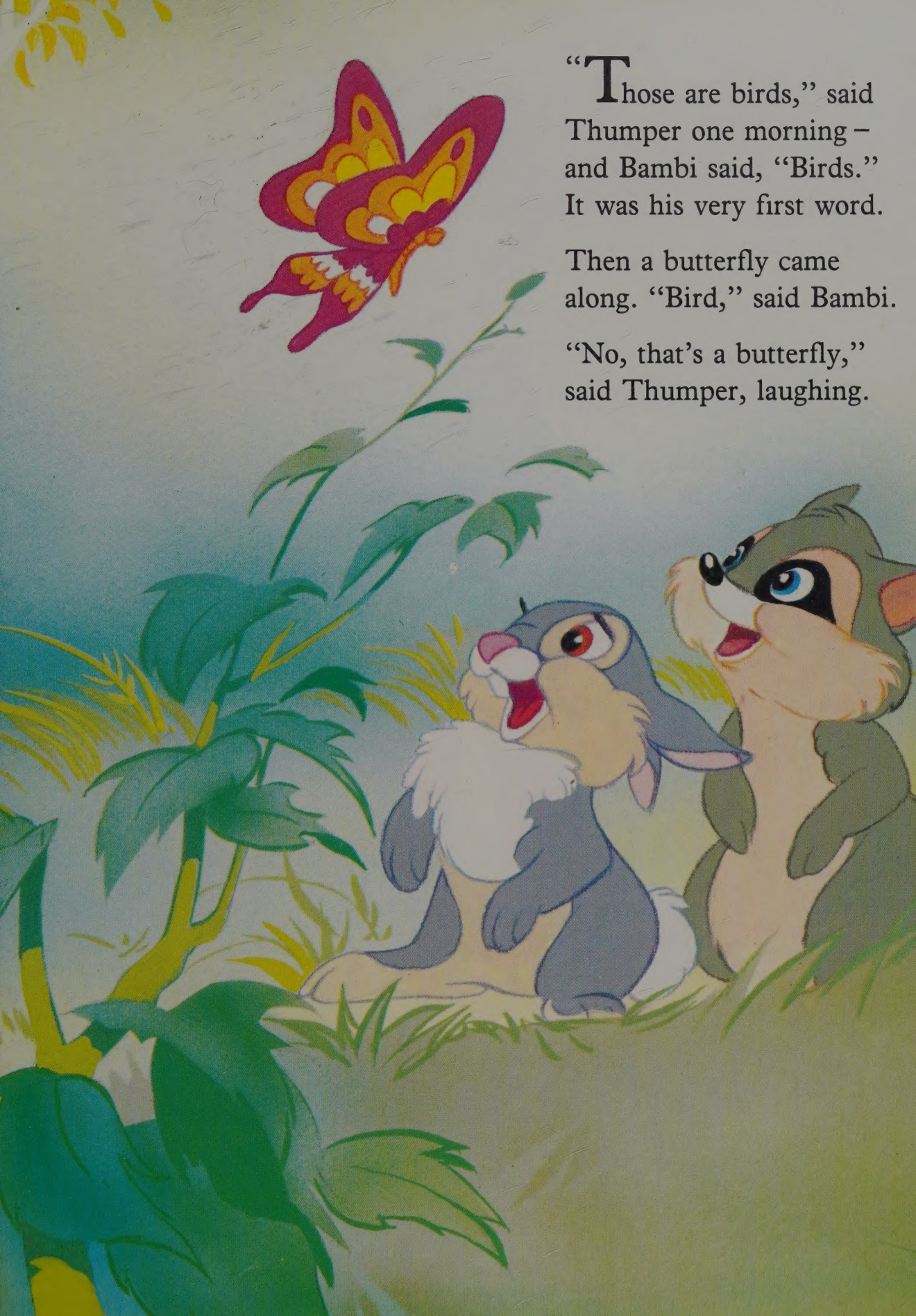
All the animals and birds came to welcome the little prince. One young rabbit hopped over for a closer look.

"What's his name?" the rabbit asked.

"Bambi," answered the mother deer.

"That's nice," said the rabbit. "*My* name's Thumper." And he hopped away to tell the other animals.

Bambi was soon on his feet, exploring his forest home. He loved walking along the leafy paths, and his friends happily showed him all sorts of new things.



"Those are birds," said Thumper one morning – and Bambi said, "Birds." It was his very first word.

Then a butterfly came along. "Bird," said Bambi.

"No, that's a butterfly," said Thumper, laughing.

Bambi leant down to smell some flowers. "Butterfly," he said, trying out his new word.

"No," said Thumper. "They're flowers."

Suddenly a small black pointed nose poked up out of the flowers. "Flower?" said Bambi.

"No, no!" laughed Thumper. "That's a skunk!"

"He can call me Flower if he wants to," said the skunk. Bambi had found another new friend!

One morning Bambi's mother took him to the meadow. It was a wonderful place to play. Bambi raced up and down, playing hide-and-seek with his shadow in the tall grass.

He was just cooling off in the pond when another fawn peeped through the grass and licked Bambi's face.

"Hey!" said Bambi. "Stop that! Who are you, anyway?"

"I'm your cousin Faline," said the other fawn. Bambi's eyes opened wide. He had a cousin! That was like having a very special friend.

Soon Bambi and Faline were playing happily together, chasing each other round the meadow.

Suddenly Bambi's father appeared in the distance.

The Prince of the Forest looked proudly at his son. "You will soon grow into a fine young stag," he said. "I am getting old, and one day you will be prince in my place."

Then, without another word, the great stag turned and disappeared into the forest.

One day when Bambi and his mother were in the meadow, they heard a loud BANG. Suddenly, Bambi's animal friends came bursting out of the woods. "Danger – MAN!" they called as they ran.

Bambi and his mother ran and ran. Suddenly the Prince of the Forest appeared beside them. "Follow me," he said, and he led them to a thicket where they would be safe. Then he turned and vanished into the forest.

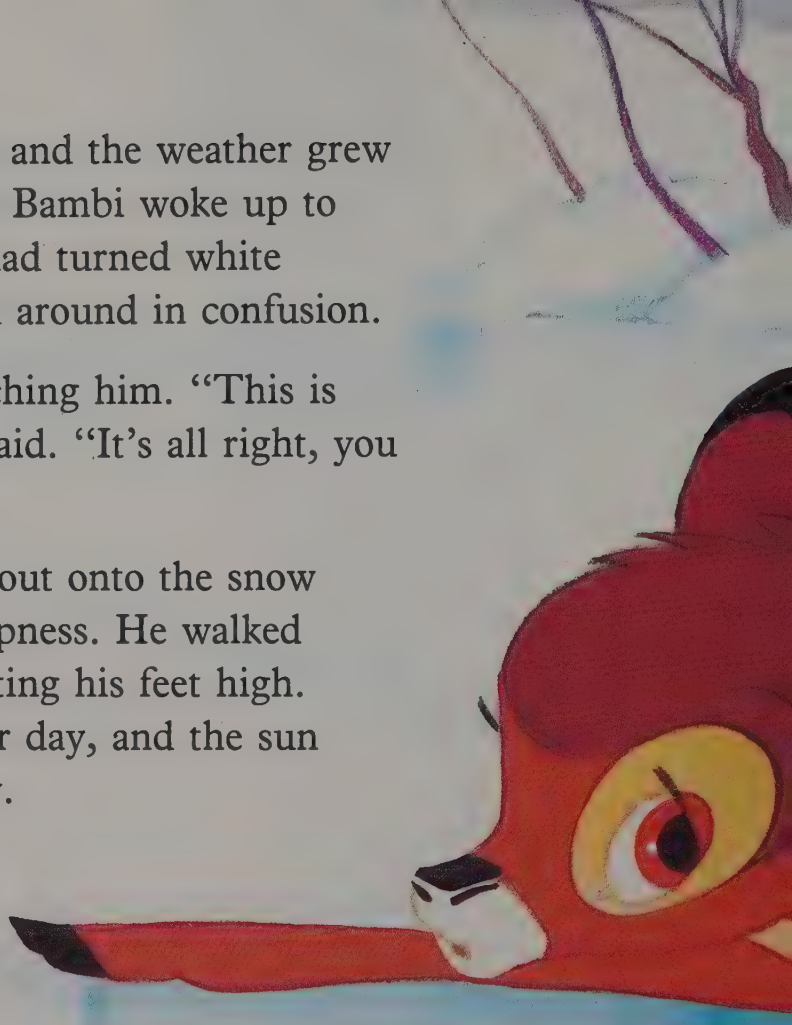
"What happened, Mother?" Bambi asked when the Prince had gone.

"Those loud noises were the sounds of MAN," Bambi's mother explained. "He carries a long stick called a gun, and he means danger to all of us in the forest. Whenever he is near, we must run for our lives, Bambi."

The months passed and the weather grew colder. One morning Bambi woke up to find that the world had turned white overnight. He looked around in confusion.

His mother was watching him. "This is snow, Bambi," she said. "It's all right, you can walk on it."

Bambi put one hoof out onto the snow and felt the cold crispness. He walked forward carefully, lifting his feet high. It was a lovely winter day, and the sun sparkled on the snow.



In the distance, Bambi was surprised to see Thumper playing on *top* of the pond! He hurried towards his friend and skidded on the smooth ice. Down he fell! Thumper laughed and laughed.

But soon Bambi could walk without slipping, and he and Thumper had a glorious time playing in the snow.

Winter was fun at first, but as time went on there was less and less food. All the animals grew hungry.

One day Bambi's mother found some new green grass growing under the snow. Bambi and his mother were eating the grass hungrily when suddenly there was a loud BANG not far off.

"Run, Bambi," said his mother. "Run as fast as you can, and don't look back."

Bambi ran, with his mother just behind him. Then there was another BANG! Bambi ran faster than ever. When at last he stopped, his mother was nowhere to be seen. The forest was still.

Bambi looked all round, then began to call wildly for his mother. In a moment the great Prince of the Forest was at his side.

"Your mother can never be with you again," the Prince told Bambi gently. "Now you must be brave and learn to walk alone."

In time the snow melted. The long winter was over at last. Flowers bloomed, and leaves and buds appeared on the trees.

The spring sun warmed Bambi's coat as he walked along the forest path. He carried his head proudly now, for he had a fine new set of antlers.

One day he found another deer beside him, a young doe. "Do you remember me, Bambi?" she asked. "I'm Faline." And she gave him a kiss.

Bambi made a face, but he was really quite pleased. Faline was lovely.

"Of course I remember you," he said. Smiling, they walked down the path together.

"Not so fast!" said a deep voice. "Faline is coming with me."

It was a stag called Ronno. His antlers were lowered, ready for battle.

Bambi sprang back in surprise. He had never fought before, and he didn't want to start now. But he knew that he had to, if he didn't want to lose Faline.

He charged straight at Ronno, and they met with a crash. They fought fiercely, and at last one of Ronno's antlers broke. Then Bambi managed to wound his enemy in the shoulder.

Beaten, Ronno limped off into the forest. Faline came back to Bambi's side, and together they walked away to the meadow.

Bambi and Faline made a home together, and the spring and summer passed happily for them.

Then, one autumn day, Bambi heard dogs barking and smelled MAN. The Prince of the Forest came to his side. "The hunters have come," he told Bambi, "with tents and campfires. We will have to go further up into the hills."

As Bambi went to warn Faline, a pack of hunting dogs closed in on him. He lowered his antlers and held them off, shouting, "Run, Faline! Hurry!" But when he turned to run, there was a loud BANG, and a dreadful pain went through him.

Bambi kept running, despite the pain of the gunshot. The great Prince ran beside him, saying, "The forest has caught fire from the campfires. We must make for the river."

They rushed through the fire, through the cool water of the river and onto the far shore. Many other animals had already reached safety there. Faline was among them, and she gently licked Bambi's wounded shoulder.

There was a long, cold winter to get through in the fire-blackened forest. But spring came again. New leaves and grass and flowers grew, and the forest was beautiful once more.

And soon the forest was buzzing with exciting news: Faline had had *two* babies. All the animals rushed to see them.

Close by, watching over them all, was the fawns' proud father – Bambi, the new great Prince of the Forest.

Titles in this series:

Peter Pan
The Little Mermaid
Dumbo
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